Spark-Gap Times

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The Old Old Timers Club

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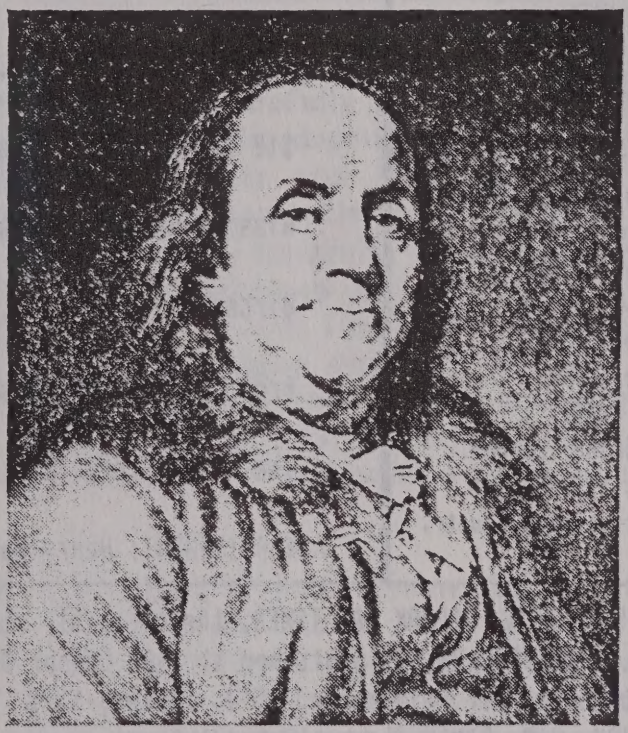

An OOOT Who Founded the Study of Q R N.

(See page 17)

Spark-Gap Times

Vol.27 Jan. - Feb.,1990 No.1

The Old Old Timers Club

PRESIDENT EMERITUS:
Ray E. Meyers, W6MLZ.
PRESIDENT:
L. F. Heithecker, W5EJ.
VICE PRESIDENT:
Duncan Kreamer, W1GAY.
SECRETARY (Interim):
Wesley Randles, W4COW.
TREASURER:
Bert Ayers, W6CL.
DIRECTORS:
H. W. Wills,W1DJ.
Earl W. Korf, K2IC.
Charles Dorian, W3JPT.
R. L. Bookwalter, W4NWF.
H. S. Gartsman, W6ATC.
Leon Stanley, W7DKB.
J. E. Hoffer, WBCWY.
G. L. Eldred, W9SG.
R. Anderson, KØNL.
DIRECTORS-at-LARGE:
G. Jacoby, DL3ME, Europe.
G. A. Penna, PY1AFA, S.A.
Austine Henry, VK3YL, Austr.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OOTC has, in recent years, weathered some pretty bad storms. The untimely death of Ray Meyers, W6MLZ; the health problems of our beloved Gus Gironda, W2JE and a general malaise among membership. We are not alone in having problems. All segments of amateur radio have been required to exert extra effort to keep the participation of their members. The reasons seem to stem more from the competition for our time than from lack of interest. It seems that someone or something is clamoring for our attention every minute of every day and, we 40-year guys and gals do, in large part, kind of feel that we're entitled to a little relaxation. Unfortunately we can ill afford to lay back and let the world of amateur radio slide. The way to oblivion is well-greased. We are in a time when commercial interests are demanding (and getting) frequencies and some of those frequencies have traditionally be amateur for many years. We must be alert, we must keep ourselves abreast of the actions of Commercial developments, FCC actions and Government controls. For most of us, such information is only available through the pages of the ARRL's QST. Let me urge you to read all such material - carefully and thoroughly . . . . . the very existence of amateur radio depends on an alert and informed group of amateurs. Whether you like the ARRL is of zero consequence at this stage of our existence. The facts are that the League does represent ALL amateurs, whether members or not. Read, understand what is proposed and what the consequences of our inaction might be . . . . . and, I personally recommend that you become a member of the League simply so that you may have a voice in its deliberations and actions. If you are violently opposed to the League please reconsider your objections. Amateur Radio of the future could well depend upon what you do in the next few years.

I would like to ask each of you to remember our Honored and Loved member, Gus Gironda, W2JE. Gus has, for many years, contributed his time and effort to the welfare of Amateur Radio. In more ways and giving more hours than anyone I know. Gus' health is giving him fits and, he's now 87! Drop him a postcard or a QSL card to confirm our love for this wonderful guy - and, 'watch out for the swinging doors'.

Ted, W5EJ

REPORT ON BALLOTING

About the first of December OOTC prepared the regular issue of SGT and included therein a ballot for the election of two Directors. Earlier membership had been requested to nominate candidates for the Offices of Director from each of the 10 USA FCC call zones. Response was good and eight such candidates were nominated, one from the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 0 districts. For the districts enumerated above, the nominations were equivalent to election, since the nominees were unopposed. In the case of the 1st and 4th districts more than one candidate was nominated and the ballot provided a means for membership to make their choice. In accordance with what we believed to be the right way to do it, the issue of SGT containing the ballot was mailed to all OOTC members of record, whether or not they normally subscribe to SGT. A total of 1550 such ballots were mailed.

It is my unhappy duty to say that we received only 46 marked ballots. One ballot came back without a single mark!

ELECTION RESULTS

There were three candidates for election from the 1st district. The balloting for that district for each candidate was:

Duncan Kreamer, W1GAY- 8

Henry Warner, W1HRQ - 10

Daniel McDonald, W1PEX- 2

The two candidates from the 4th district with balloting:

Robert Bookwalter, W4NWF 20

William Sides, W4AUP - 15

Thus, Henry, W1HRQ and Robert, W4NWF are declared elected as Directors of OOTC for the 1st and 4th districts, respectively.

Ballots were opened and counted by Mr. Barney Moffatt, W5CJZ who is not a member of OOTC. Thanks are extended to Barney for his work on behalf of the Old Timers Group.

Letters will go to each director together with recommendations for their immediate attention. To all OOTC members who helped, and who cast their ballot - a big thanks. Without your help we would be lost.

APRIL

1	W4NH
2	W4UF, K6OJ, DF7IL
4	K8GRO, W6AKM, W5BQE, N7DGZ, W3RMQ
5	W1GUP
6	DK5LI
7	W3HNY, W6ABR, W2BGN, W5EJ
8	W9EBY
9	W3DB, DL3QY
10	W8LS
11	DJ0MV, W6QEU
12	W6PL, K5ABD, K7MD, VE3HJ
13	N3ELB, K4SSW
14	W6ASN
18	W1CTN
19	DL6VL
20	W5ENI, W1BB, K4HYY
21	K6ZUO, W1PRT, W6ZRZ
22	K4ZI, W6SXW, DJ3BE, WA3EXX N9CJI, W0IWV, KA3KUA
23	G2WQ, KC2CB, KE4RY
24	W8CWY, K4HDV, NC5K, W4IKU
25	W4UG, W0LV
26	W1BML, AA6DI, W2RLY
27	W0FQY, VU2MD, W9REC
28	W4HHQ, KD8WP
29	BV2A, DL6TL
30	W9PW, W6SPQ, PY2NH

MAY

1	K1UIL, W5LMQ, W8FDG, W0IZV
2	W3EVW, W1SZJ
5	W8BIF
6	DL1SF, N7FYD, W5UGI
7	W0EFR
8	W6NQJ, NEWW, K1GHK
9	W0CKI
10	W1AYI, W8IHX, WB6VPY
12	W6DIX, W3GY
14	W1IYX, W6GED, W8FWQ, W6BF
15	W6II, W1INN, W7GEY, W6EH DL1VU, KE0KI
16	N8DR, W0LR, K2SN, W6ONK, N4ITM, WA8LAY, DL6MM
18	W9BUA, K4OV, W5HR
20	W1BGW, W8AHB
21	W2OEQ, VK6KK
22	Q6DXG, KE7K, W7QV
23	W2TLC, W4IYT, W3CU
24	WB6APX, W6FQ, W6HDT
25	W3BTR, W2PPS, W6QLO, W9DI
26	K6DW, DL7CY, KC2PS
27	XE1AX, K6CD
28	W8SK, W9SG, W3HHC
29	W5DHE
30	W0RAL
31	W6EKM, W7LVB

OOTC DIRECTORS ELECTED FOR 2-YEAR TERM

First Call District	Henry K. Warner, W1HRQ
Second Call District	Gus Gironda, W2JE
Third Call District	Robert J. Gleason, W3KW
Fourth Call District	Robert Bookwalter, W4NWF
Fifth Call District	Leland Smith, W5KL
Sixth Call District	Harry Gartsman, W6ATC
Seventh Call District	A. Lee Tippett, W7LVB
Eighth Call District	John E. Hoffer, W8CWY
Ninth Call District	Karl Kopetzky, K9AQJ
Tenth Call District	Leo I. Meyerson, W0GFQ

Congratulations go to each of these Fine Directors!

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Spark-Gap Times

Official Newspaper of the OOTC.

Tel.: 312 202-9564

Karl A. Kopetzky, K9AQJ, Editor. 3619 N. Lamon Ave., Chicago, Il 60641

To: The Readers of SGT & Members of the OOTC.
From: K9AQJ, Editor of Spark Gap Times.

You probably have noticed that the Jan/Feb '90 issue of Spark Gap Times is late, very late. Here are the reasons.

Our President, Ted Heithecker, W5EJ, (who very kindly offered to become the "publisher" of SGT when good old Gus became unable to continue thru no fault of his own) ran into an inordinate amount of shocking and debilitating trouble. First, his son suddenly dropped dead from a brain aneurism. Then his grandson became embroiled with drugs at college and only by dint of immediate and Herculean efforts is he being "rescued."

Nor was that the end. At the very time that SGT was ready to be mailed, a disastrous fire caused the entire issues to be water-logged by the firefighters, and totally unmailable or usable.

Fortunately, Ted had insurance, and SGT will get re-printed and mailed ASAP, but it may take a bit of time. So please be patient, fellers.

Now, I'm in a bit of a bind too, since I depend mostly on input from the readers. If they don't get SGT, they don't input to me. They haven't gotten SGT because of the above unusual and terrifying circumstances. So no input from them. But I will try a solution.

Starting with the next issue which will be out the first week of June, Spark Gap Times will become a quarterly, with issues out in March, June, September and December. With some luck we may be able to make it larger in text and perhaps, mail it at a lower cost so that more readers can receive it. That's our goal, and we are going to try mightily to attain it.

The final word. If you are bored with the content of SGT, if you disagree with any or all of it, if you would like to see it change, if you have a story of old time hamming etc to tell, --- for heaven's sake scribble it down and mail it to me. Just write the same way that you would tell it, and we'll take it from there. Only make it legible.

I MUST have input from you readers to keep SGT going and interesting. And Bill Miller can't make up his column without input, either. And I can't make up the entire issue wiithout input from you members. So, please.... Guess that's it for now. 73 and all that good stuff... But let's get cuttin' !

Karl

Karl A. Kopetzky, K9AQJ,
Editor.

OOTC'S $14 CLUB

Charles H. Colledge, W4CM Morton S. Brewer, W6JU
Carleton F. Maylott, W2YE Raymond C. Hensley, W7AFG
William J. Oldham, WW5U Glen R. Smith, N6CX
William Bennett Smith, W1LRM

OOTC'S $21 CLUB

Ted E. Sharp, K6UYK Paul N. Dane, W6WOW
Clark S. Vaughn, KH6IHY

OOTC'S $35 CLUB

Joseph F. Poges, W1EED

NEW MEMBERS IN OOTC

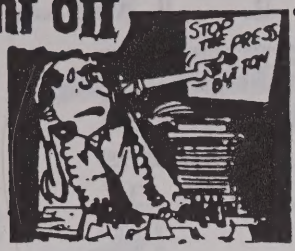
Walter E. Heineman, W2QR(2845) Osborne E. Kerr(2846)
Gerald J. Olivier, W5NJJ(2847) Les Davidson, K6MZS(2848)
William O. Anderson, W5UBU(2849) G. Paul Gerbracht, W3QPP(2850)
Robert B. Rockne, W7ITG(2851) Troy Wideman, AA6J(2852)
Paul Teufl, DL6RG(2853) Helmut Schall, DL1LY(2854)
Amelia Wise, W5OVH(2855) Charles A. Rafferty, WA7ZOO(2856)

OOTC MEMBERS REPORTED AS SILENT KEYS

Charles W. Austin III, W1INN(2325) John R. Griggs, W6KW(1048)
Duane H. Harris, W7LUQ(914) Raymond A. Hartman, W3OJM(1942)
J. Henry Izart, W1AUY(1041) Willy Lemensiek, DL1QQ(2357)
Robert W. Morrill, W7BMK(2051) Joel F. Moss, W6BQR(1282)
David L. Smith, W6CQ(2748) Leon S. Stanley, W7DKB(1122)
Edward Frank Tukey, KA2EIO(2672) George Elton Watson, K6WL(1498)
Benjamin E. Windle, W8FCA(1716) John A Plummer, W1VN(1109)
Russell F. Hobart, W1AAR(1378)

Old Old-Timers note with regret and sorrow the passing of our Friends who have become Silent Keys and express our sincere condolences to their families and friends.

right off the editor's desk



The opinions & suggestions expressed in this article, are not necessarily those of the OOTC, its Officers or Directors.

"A Pox On Both Their Houses!"

HAM RADIO degenerated into obscenities in both CW and SSB modes, on all the ham bands from 160M thru 10M, when some idiots jammed the Club Bouvet's DX ham station, 3Y5X frequencies, a much sought after, prize, DX QSL. There is no possible excuse for the filthy language and outrageously illegal performance of a rather large number of frustrated hams who seemingly were denied access to 3Y5X by the jammers; and then resorted to "street language" over the ham bands to express their frustration, possibly because some might have donated money to 3Y5X towards its expedition expenses, etc.

Yet surprisingly, there is another "side to the coin." As has lately become almost a universal "modus operandi," Club Bouvet accepted the loan or gift, (we don't know which) of 5 complete, ham stations jointly from ICOM and Ham Radio Outlet. For these firms, the donation of the gear was to be offset by the generated, DX, QSO publicity, an idea now generally considered to be good business.

But there is more. Club Bouvet expected (Westlink Report No.565, Dec.22, 1989, p.7) to have about $22,000 of its expenses defrayed or reimbursed by US DXers. The Club received about $8,000 from US DXers up to Dec. 22, '89, Westlink

(Pse QSY to page 14)

AN RFI - TVI TRAP

This Simple RFI-TVI Trap Can Be Built For Pennies. It Sometimes Works Wonders Killing RFI & TVI

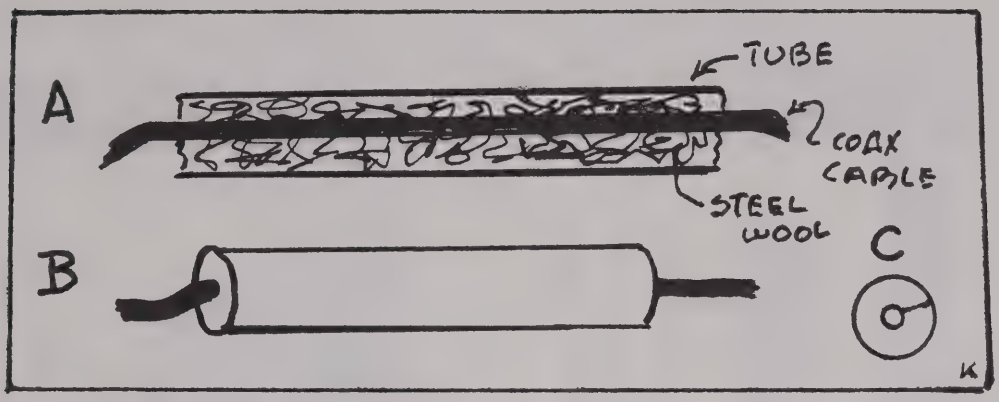
IT IS not only frustrating but downright depressing to tune the rig on one's favorite frequency to an SWR of 1:1, only to discover that the set is getting into the XYL's TV, or the neighbors' radio or stereo sets. And if the RFI or TVI is extensive, some pesky neighbor is sure to bring the FCC into the picture with the resulting annoyance or even restricted operating hours.

In the case of the so-called "shock excitation" from the nearby transmited signal, usually by closeness to the antenna, little can be done, except possibly to move the antenna. (Hi!) But where the RFI or TVI is being caused by radiation from the interconnecting, coaxial cables between the exciter and the tuner, or the exciter-tuner and the rf amplifier, the following RFI/TVI Trap does, in many cases do the job of squelching the interference.

The RFI-TVI Trap

The RFI-TVI Trap is a simple device readily built by even the most inexperienced or even by most handicapped hams. In effect, it consists of a cardboard tube filled with steel wool thru which the coaxial cable is run. That, and nothing else.

The tube can be one of the many mailing tubes



available for little change from the local stationery store, and should be about 3" in diameter. Smaller ones don't work as well; and the larger ones are cumbersome and don't work any better than the 3" ones.

Each tube should be long enough to cover the entire length of the coaxial cable between the exciter and tuner, between the tuner and the rf amplifier, and between the rf amplifier and the point of egress of the coaxial cable from the shack (generally the window or the window sill) on its way to the beam, long wire antenna or what have you. If you are running coax cable thru which the transitted signal is put to any other device, oscilloscope, freq. counter, etc., that coax must also be run thru a Trap, and hence tube(s) cut to proper length should be prepared.

Each tube must be short enough not to touch the metal, coax connectors at either end of the coaxial cables. For the steel wool is NOT grounded, either deliberately or accidentally.

The steel wool is available from most hardware or paint stores as small, hand-held pads for the removal of paint and rust, or the finishing of wood, etc. Buy the "medium coarse" grade "roughness," NOT the "fine" grade. Price of each pad is usually inexpensive.

(Pse QSY to page 16)

This ad appeared in 1924. Note the many items manufactured by GE.

WORLD WIDE WIRELESS

IN addition to the complete line of Radio Transmitting and Receiving sets sold by the RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA, for Ship to Ship and Ship to Shore Communication, the Corporation is in a position to quote upon:

PORTABLE MULE PACK AND CART RADIO SETS.

SPECIAL TYPES OF SPARK TRANSMITTERS FROM 1 TO 20 KILOWATTS, FOR MOBILE AND FIXED STATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT USE.

MILITARY TRACTOR SETS OF THE VACUUM-TUBE TYPE.

SPECIAL CONTINUOUS WAVE TRANSMITTERS FOR SUBMARINES, DESTROYERS, SEAPLANES AND FOR NAVAL BASES.

SPECIAL INTER-FLEET RADIO TELEPHONE SYSTEMS FOR BATTLESHIPS AND OTHER NAVAL CRAFT.

The Corporation has in development a new series of Continuous Wave Tube Transmitters for the various fields of commercial usage. This apparatus bears the stamp of The General Electric Co., (U.S.A.) one of the world's largest electrical manufacturers.

Two hundred kilowatt radio frequency alternators are now in daily use in the Corporation's high-power trans-oceanic stations. The Corporation is in a position to bid on similar equipment for international communication.

SHIP - WIRELESS may be bought outright, may be leased, and may be bought or leased in addition to our service of inspection, maintenance and operation. We provide licensed, skillful and trustworthy operators. Also our service and inspection depots are located at all important seaports of the world.

Our Nearest Office Will Give You All Details and Information

RADIO CORPORATION OF AMERICA

EDWARD J. NALLY, President

WOOLWORTH BUILDING NEW YORK CITY

BRANCH OFFICES IN THE U. S. A.

BOSTON	PHILADELPHIA	BALTIMORE	NORFOLK	SAVANNAH
NEW ORLEANS	GALVESTON	PORT ARTHUR	CLEVELAND	CHICAGO
SEATTLE	PORTLAND	SAN FRANCISCO	SAN PEDRO	HONOLULU

distributed by RCA in those days, including courtesy RADIO CRAFT magazine, circa 1938.)

F.Y.I. ....IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW

Data: Worst inflation occurred in Hungary 44 years ago, when a single, 1931 gold pengo equalled 130,000,000,000,000,000,000 paper pengos.

Data: Metallic money - coins - dates back over 2,000 years. Paper money first appeared in China around 800 AD because of a scarcity of coins.

Data: Most OOTC members' hearts will have beat more than 2,700,000,000 times by the time they are 75 years old.

Data: Probably the longest, 2-unit, real name of any actor belongs to Walter Matthau who was born as Walter Matasschanskayasky.

Data: About 10,000 different languages exist in the World. But only 90% of them are spoken today. The balance is dead.

Data: Few people recognize James Earl Carter as the ex-president Jimmy Carter's full name.

Data: The world's tiniest, independent country with an area of less than a quarter square mile is the Vatican City in Rome. Its birth rate is zero. The world's largest country is the USSR with an area of over 8.6 million square miles.

Data: The first ever income tax was levied in Britain in 1799 and was a flat 10%.

Data: An earth year is precisely 365.242 days long.

Data: The world's biggest bell weighs 200 tons, is more than 19 feet tall and has never been rung. It is in the Kremlin.

Data: If you ever meet Kirk Douglas, he of movie stardom, you could greet him with, "Hi, there, Issur Demsky!" which is his real name. ■

SOME LAW TO DO YOU SOME GOOD

by
Karl A. Kopetzky, K9AQJ
Attorney-at-Law

Knowing In Advance What Can Happen In Some Ordinary Business Deals Can Help

WHILE it has been correctly said that, "He who acts as his own lawyer, is an idiot who has a jackass for an attorney", advance knowledge of what can happen in some, very ordinary legal situations could do you a lot of good. For "Forewarned is forearmed!"

Take for instance, when you leave an article like your ham gear or even your vehicle to be serviced or repaired, and the shop to which you entrusted the item is burglarized or burned out by fire. Your rights of recovery are not very good.

Most shops are not legally responsible for such a loss, providing always that the shop is not guilty of negligence or some direct act causing your loss. There is no legal requirement that the shop must carry fire and theft insurance covering the customers' articles (or vehicles) left with it for repair, maintenance or service, etc.

You can of course, carry your own insurance. Or you can ask the shop about such insurance; and take your business to that shop which will assume full responsibility for your property while it is in its possession.

What About Bankruptcy?

By the same token, if the shop goes belly up, bankrupt, and you have deposited funds with it on a lay-away plan, you may not get anything back. You must, however, be listed as a creditor, even tho that is really not a very good position.

The various government tax collectors, from the

(Pse QSY to page 19)

Report press time. And it was hoping for the remaining $14,000 to come from other US DXers and/or DX QSL-seekers.

That put the entire matter into the arena of a commercial venture: commercial, radio firm publicity and a DX's expedition expenses defrayed or reimbursed by cash donations. And where compounded with the sorry mess of illegal ham transmissions plus obscenity, the entire operation becomes suspect.

We believe that the deliberate and illegal jamming and the illegal transmissions of obscenities (in, and even out of the bands) by some hams on one side, and the commercialism on the other, coupled with the cash donations to reimburse or defray a DX's expedition expenses, are "not in the best interests of Ham Radio." They could add just one more nail in the eventual coffin of all Ham Radio as we knew it before such things as these existed, or were even thought of!

What Happened to All You Members?

THE holidays are over; and we hope every OOTC member was pleased with the happiness and joy they generated for him, his loved ones and friends. We hope that each one faired well.

Unfortunately it must be reported, SGT didn't fair well at all. We had only a single response to the "Ye Olde Ham Flea Market" and none at all for the "Ham Chatter" column. Nor did we get a letter or an article, either. Not even a criticism!

Now, there can be no complaint if nobody wishes to buy anything that is listed in the Ye Old So-and-So. But don't the members have anything

they'd like to get rid of, or find? That's what the column is for.

We are scrubbing the column for the nonce. And until we get some input from the members, it will stay that way. We are a firm believer in the wish of the majority. If you don't want a specific column in SGT, it's gone... right now!

The "Ham Chatter" column presents a quite different situation. Bill Miller, K2GCE, has worked long and hard to make the column something where members can "meet" friends thay haven't heard from or about for years 'n years. It's the "water fountain" at which we all meet and talk with our OOTC friends. Under the circumstances, it is difficult to understand why Bill has received nothing at all this month. Please, fellers, if you learn something about any -- yes, ANY oldtimer, write it up on a post card if you don't want to write a lengthy letter, and mail it to Bill. We need to keep in touch with as many members as possible, and Bill's column is how and where we do it.

So let's have a real long column by virtue of your sending in lots of info to Bill for the next and the future issues. And as they say on the TV, "Thank you for your support!"

We Can't Print What You Don't Write In

ALL during the time that Don deNeuf, WA1SPM, was alive and an OOTC member, he would send us articles. Most were written by him, and others were clipped from local newspapers. But the essential part was that Don sent us material.

And Gus, our former Sec'y, and the "new" Director from the 2nd District, was no slouch when

(Pse QSY to page 18)

Construction is absurdly simple. After cutting the tube to the desired length, prepare the steel wool pads by fluffing the wool up so that it has lost all its pad-like shape and is a shapeless mound of steel wool. But be sure the wool is evenly spaced in the "mound." Fluf as many pads as you will need to fill each tube, LOOSELY.

Next, cut cardboard circle end pieces to close the ends of the tube with a hole in the center of the circle for the coaxial cable and a slit cut from the hole to the edge to permit the cable to be centered in the piece, (Figure C). Or you can use tape (duct tape is just perfect for this) to center the coax in the tube, in either case closing only one end of the tube at this time. (We used the tape as being simpler and easier.) Use tape to attach the cardboard circles to the tube ends, as is described below.

Close one end of a tube using either the carboard circle or tape, with the coaxial cable running thru the circle or taped end and centered in the tube. Now, holding the coax centered, fill the tube with the wool. Do this loosely but completely. Secure the other, open tube end with the another circular piece or with tape such that the coaxial cable stays put in the center of the tube, surrounded by the steel wool. Figure A is a cross-section, while figure B is a pictorial view of the finished Trap.

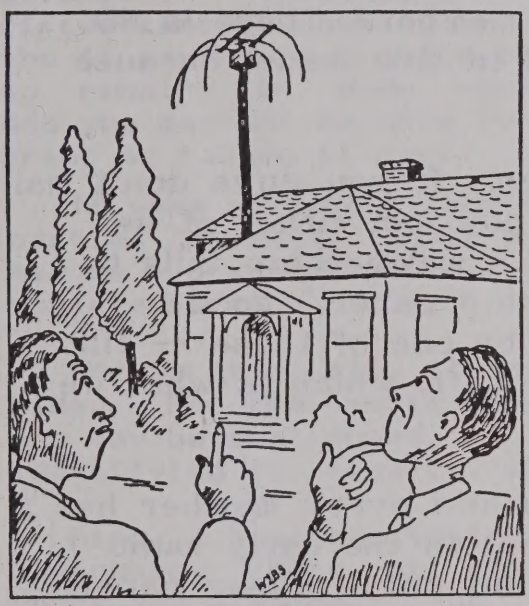
And, voila! There's your RFI-TVI Trap!

Connect up your rig with the Traps installed. Tune for minimum (hopefully 1:1) SWR; and in most cases, the RFI and/or TVI due to radiation from the connecting coaxial cable(s) will have been tamed. If a small amount of RFI/TVI still

remains, move the tubes with their inserted coax -- NOT the cables themselves -- around a bit to a different position on the operating table. Sometimes that will finish the job.

SGT would be most happy to hear how you made out. So, please, drop us a line. Thanks es 73.

----- 30 -----



"Funny thing, it did that with 1 KW!"

"Come on down, it's bucklin'!"

ON OUR COVER: Benjamin Franklin, 1706 - 1790, statesman, scientist, printer, bon-vivant and signer of the Declaration of Independence and ambassador to France. Franklin invented the open stove and the lightning rod. He founded the study of static; and established the law of the electrical charge, and the existance of "positive" and "negative" electricity. Truly Franklin was one of the most outstanding of Old Timers.

it came to sending in material. Many a time, it was Gus' stuff that "saved the day," and made the SGT issue that much more interesting.

The member readers will note that in this issue, except for our Prexy, Ted, W5EJ, and Yours Truly, there is nothing in here that is contributed by any other member. There is NO member-submitted material in this issue, because NONE was submitted!

Now, SGT is YOUR paper. If you guys don't mail us or Bill Miller material, how can either of us put it in SGT? And when a membership fails to provide material for its "club paper," good editors, -- and we try to be one of those -- fill the pages with their own stuff, which is what we have done.

Now we know that each and every member has a story of the his involvement in the early radio days. Why not sit down and put it all on paper. Don't worry if you can't make it read "professionally." That's our job. We'll doctor it up, rewrite the cumbersome passages and generally make it sound real good. And you can bet your last dollar that the membership WILL enjoy reading it!

So, please, do sit down and send us "Your Story." And by the way, how about sending in some pictures of your early ham stations? If you want the pictures back, you have but to say so, and we'll see that they are returned to you.

It's up to the members to get off'n their haunches, and mail us material. We are positive that everybody will really appreciate the much livelier, newsier and better SGT which will result. de K9AQJ, Editor, SGT.

IRS down to the local tax men, come first in the line of creditors. Then come the unpaid employees, all of which generally leaves little for the rest of the creditors, including you.

If you have left an article or your vehicle for repair, and the shop goes bankrupt, it gets very sticky. You can, however, under certain circumstances, get your own item or vehicle back, tho it may be in a state of disassembly preparatory to repair, or even repaired but not reassembled. And you may not be able to "force" its reassembly prior to taking it back.

If some work on it has been performed, full or partial payment, again depending on circumstances, may be a prerequisite to your getting the article or vehicle back.

And worst of all, it may take time -- lots of time. For the courts move slowly and the return to you may be challenged, if you have difficulty in identifying it legally. etc.

Also, a business that fails, need not go the bankruptcy route at all. It can just close its doors and disappear! As long as the failure is honest and devoid of fraud, you have little chance of recovering your money. However, you should be able to get you property back, about the same as above.

Lastly, if a business changes hands, the new proprietor need not honor any deal you made with his predecessor, including either holding the merchandise on which you made a down payment or returning your money and not holding it.

As long as the change in proprietorship is honest and free of fraud or connivance between the old and new owners, you do not have a very good chance of recovering your money, or the merchandise. However, you would get your own property back as you would under the above conditions, subject to proper, legal identification

Best bet: Make very sure with whom you deal, especially financially, so that you will not be faced with any of the above, nasty situations. ■

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the 2KD Standard

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